

directors of the same company, or a majority of them, may from time to time determine, and that the said tolls be rated and paid in current money of the United States, or may be discharged in foreign gold and silver of equal value.

C H A P.  
XVII.

XVI. And be it enacted, That the books of the said company shall always be open to the inspection of the general assembly of Maryland, or of any person or persons to be appointed by them for that purpose.

Books to be  
open.

XVII. And be it enacted, That the tolls herein before allowed to be demanded and received, are granted and shall be payable on condition only that the said Pocomoke company shall make the river or canal well capable of being navigated, except in dry seasons, from Snow-Hill to Mitchell's Bridge, by vessels and rafts drawing one foot water at the least.

Tolls granted  
on condition,  
&c.

XVIII. And be it enacted, That in case the said company shall not begin the said work within three years after the company shall be formed, that then the said company shall not be entitled to any benefit, privilege or advantage under this act; and in case the said company shall not complete the navigation from Snow-Hill to Mitchell's Bridge within ten years after the said company shall be formed, then shall all interest of the said company, and all preference in their favour, as to the navigation and tolls at, to, through and from Snow-Hill to Mitchell's Bridge, or through any other part of the said river or canal, be forfeited and cease.

Work to be  
begun within  
three years,  
&c.

XIX. And, whereas wears may be erected in and upon the said river or canal, when cut, and trees may be fallen in and across the said river or canal, and other obstructions made therein, to the great injury of the navigation of the said river or canal, Be it enacted, That all wears hereafter to be made in the said river or canal, and all trees or other obstructions now across any part of the said river or canal, so as to stop the passage of any vessel, raft or timber, shall be deemed and are hereby declared nuisances, and the same may be removed and destroyed by the said president and directors, or any of them.

Wears, &c.  
deemed nu-  
sances, &c.

XX. And be it enacted, That no person or persons, unless with the consent of the said president and directors, shall hereafter put, place or make, any wear, or fall any tree or trees, in or across the said river or canal aforesaid, so as to stop the passage of any vessel, raft or timber, as the case may be, any where in the said river or canal, under the penalty of ten pounds current money for every such offence, to be recovered by action of debt, in the name of the Pocomoke company, to be brought in the county court of the county in which the offence may be committed, one half to the informer, or person who will sue for or prosecute to effect for the same, and the other half to the use of the said Pocomoke company, to be applied towards the improvement of the navigation of the said river or canal, to be cut as aforesaid between Snow-Hill and Mitchell's Bridge.

No person to  
put or place  
any wear, &c.

XXI. And, whereas part of the said river or canal may be navigated by vessels and rafts before the expiration of the time limited for the completion of the said works, and before the whole extent of the said river or canal from Snow-Hill to Mitchell's Bridge, or to the division line aforesaid, is made navigable: And whereas it is reasonable that the said company should receive tolls from those that make use of the part of the river or canal so cleared, and as the same will assist in effecting the above laudable undertaking, therefore, Be it enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the said president and directors, immediately after the formation of the said company, to demand and receive, at such place or places on the said river or canal as they shall hereafter adjudge and determine to be most convenient, for all merchandise and commodities brought down and carried up any part of the said river or canal from Snow-Hill to Mitchell's Bridge, or the division line aforesaid, tolls according to the foregoing table and rates.

President, &c.  
may demand  
tolls, &c.